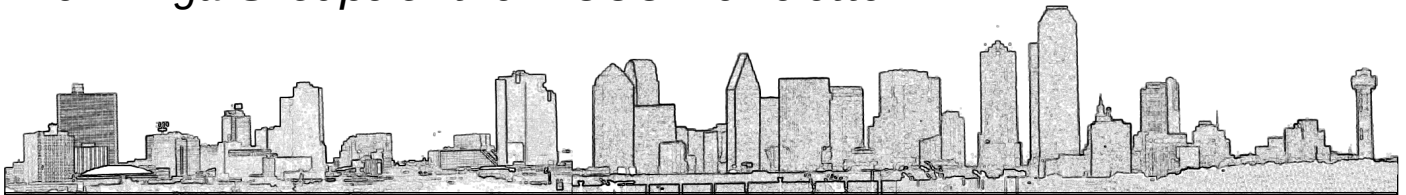


# The AGM Journal

The Amiga Groups of the MCCC Newsletter



Fort Worth

Volume 15 Issue 6 — December 1997

Dallas

## Petro Speaks

*Petro Tyschtschenko's Speech at the Midwest Amiga Exposition  
What's the latest from Amiga?*

**T**he following speech was delivered by Petro Tyschtschenko on Saturday, November 1, 1997, on the show floor of the Midwest Amiga Exposition in Columbus, Ohio.

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Amigans,*

*I'm very pleased to attend the Amicon which is indeed my first big convention after Gateway 2000 Inc. acquired Amiga.*

*This year, on May 31, I was invited by the Amiga Atlanta User Group. Out of this potential User Group, I met people who are attending the Amicon today. Thank you very much for this invitation and for your time to listen to me.*

*As you know, yesterday was Halloween and I was very pleased that nobody beat me up, because I will not bring any "Sweets" — like news from our Research & Development department.*

*As you noticed already, Mr. Jeff Schindler, the general Manager of our newly founded Research & Development department, is not available today. At the moment he is preparing a strategy road map which will be announced at the Cologne fair.*

*Today I do not intend to talk a lot about our history, because everybody knows what has happened, how exciting and how glamorous and sometimes how sad and negative our history was designed.*

*You may remember my speech at the World of Amiga in London with Dr. Jim Taylor, world-wide President Global Marketing of Gateway 2000, Inc. on 18th May 97. In his speech, Dr. Jim Taylor pointed out that Gateway 2000 has not bought Amiga to make it smaller. Gateway 2000 want the Amiga to grow.*

*And indeed, at AMIGA International, Inc. we registered already growth. We founded AMIGA International Inc. in Langen which is under my direction. We are responsible for the Sales and Marketing world-wide.*

*In Germany we are in total 7 people. We are very*

*successful in selling our existing products world-wide. Besides Europe, we have tremendous improvements regarding the sale in India and in Australia, but our North American business is also increasing.*

*Good news are that we will have for our A1200 Amiga Magic Pack, which was until now only available in PAL, an NTSC version for the North American market available beginning December 97.*

*We also cut down our prices dramatically to build up the market for our future products and to find new clients — it's to convince by our fantastic Amiga technology.*

*We have negotiated with Quikpak about a license agreement, and it is already signed a few days ago.*

*As I already mentioned, it was founded a new company — Amiga Inc. in South Dakota, close to Gateway 2000. Amiga Inc. is responsible for the Research and the Development of new Amiga products, as well as hard and software.*

*The company is managed by Jeff Schindler. Currently in South Dakota at Amiga Inc. there are working 5 people:*

- Jeff Schindler, General Manager
- Darreck Lisle, Event coordinator
- Marilyn Flint, Operations manager
- Joe Torre, Senior engineer
- Kelly Newby, Bookkeeper

*Coming back to AMIGA International world-wide sales and Marketing activities out of Europe, they are as follows:*

- Supporting the existing Amiga community
- Leveraging the existing Amiga technology through brought licensing
- Assisting in developing new products based on open standards to the home computer and video/graphics market.

Since March 97, I have visited and supported world-wide Amiga activities to keep up our community. In Europe I was attending the following conventions:

- Heilbronn/Germany, Amiga User Meeting with Keith Bradach from Gateway 2000
- Trier/Germany, Convention called "Magic Days"
- Stockholm/Sweden, Amitech 97
- Hammersmith/England, World of Amiga
- Warsaw/Poland, Gambleriada 97 and Intel Outside Party
- Atlanta/USA, User Group convention
- Dakota Dunes/USA, first constitutional meeting
- Saarbrücken/Germany, User Group convention
- Hof/Germany, User Group convention
- Empoli/Italy, Pianeta Amiga
- Bombay/India, Scat 97
- Australia, Amiga Gathering
- And now here in Port Columbus at the Amicon.

AMIGA International has reached many license agreements. They are:

- A1200
  - Micronik (Germany)
- A4000 — Nova Sector (USA)
- Amiga OS 3.1
  - Software Hut (USA)
  - Power Computing (UK)
  - Vesalia Computer (Germany)
- Software Application
  - Epic Marketing (UK) — Image 3.1 KS Rom
  - Cloanto (Italian), Amiga forever
- Merchandise Product (for example T-shirts)
  - Vidamus (Sweden)
  - Robert Hamilton (USA)
  - Triple A (France)
  - Logica (Italy)
  - Randomize (Canada)
  - Amiga Plus (Germany)
- For new hardware based on Amiga OS 3.1
  - Index (UK), Access
  - DCE GmbH, Germany
  - Quikpak (USA)
- Spare Part distribution
  - Paxtron (USA)

Further license contracts are in sight:

- For A1200
  - Elbox (Poland)
  - Intrinsic (UK)
  - Professional Support Service (South Africa)
- New hardware based on Amiga OS 3.1
  - REC (USA) China/Europe — Wonder TV

The next big convention is coming soon which will be the Cologne fair called "Computer 97" starting 14th to 16th November 97.

For years, the fair was called, "The World of Commodore" and then after Commodore's bankruptcy it was changed into "Computer with the current year". It was the largest Amiga fair world-wide. In 1995 there were more than 60,000 people attending the show.

Last year when Amiga Technologies was under bankruptcy protection, there was no fair booth and I was sitting around like an refugee and I tried hard to represent Amiga outgoing from foreign booths. This situation affected also the figures of visitors. The figure dropped to only 35,000 in 3 days.

During the opening ceremony last year, I promised to be back in 1997 — and indeed I achieved this goal. AMIGA International will have a big fair booth with about 2,000 square feet. AMIGA International will not sell any products during the fair. We will represent the Amiga technology and the licensed technology.

In our booth, following companies are exhibiting and demonstrating their products — powered by Amiga:

- HI Q Limited, UK
- Haage & Partner, Germany
- Index Information, UK
- Micronik, Germany
- Herrn Holger Kruse, USA (Miami Internet Software)
- Angela Schmidt, Germany (CD burning)

The biggest enrichment is that we can show the new designed boards by DCE Computer Service GmbH. This board is based on the A4000 with following features: There will be 2 versions available

- A5000
  - CPU 68030/50 Mhz
  - Up to 64 MB Ram
  - Standard PC Keyboard
  - 1.44 MB Floppy Disk
  - 1.7 Gbyte IDE HDD
  - 10 – 24 Speed IDE CD ROM
  - AGA Chipset
  - Scan Doubler — HF Modulator optional
- A6000
  - CPU 68060/50 Mhz
  - Up to 128 MB RAM
  - Standard PC Keyboard
  - 1.44 MB Floppy Disk
  - 1.7 Gbyte IDE HD
  - 10 – 24 Speed IDE CD ROM
  - AGA Chipset
  - Scan Doubler — HF Modulator optional

*I think this product will be very successful in our near future. It will help us to keep the market alive and growing. For further information, please watch [http://www.dcecom.de/] http://www.dcecom.de/.*

*This year in Cologne we expect more than 60,000 visitors, 80% of them will be Amiga fanatics. In well organized workshops, the following companies will be represented through News and Information.*

- Phase 5 - workshop Power PC and strategy
- Cloanto-Amiga Forever, a hot discussion item
- Haage & Partner- Internet & Java, Compiling C code using Storm C, linking and creating executable
- Nova Design-Alladin 4D-an old friend is back,
- Cinemorph - faster and faster
- Image FX
- And Vulcan Software from England will present their new Genetic Demo.

*Due to the world-wide shortage of Amiga video monitors, AMIGA International will also demonstrate how to use a standard PC monitor with our beloved Amiga.*

*I think it is very important, that we explore an open Amiga platform, use industry standard components to reduce the production costs, to make it faster to develop and easier to upgrade. I will try to reach this goal in a very managed fashion.*

*Highlights of the Cologne fair will be the long expected announcement about the Future of Amiga. Which will be stated at the developer conference on Friday evening at 7.*

*This is the end of my speech and today I had the great pleasure again to stand here and to give my opinion: Amiga has a bright future ahead!*

*Thank you for being here and many thanks to the people who organized this big and successful event.*

*...Petro Tyschtschenko* 



*"DOS/WIN based computers manufactured by companies such as IBM, Compaq, Tandy, and millions of others, are by far the most popular, with about 70 million machines in use worldwide. Macintosh fans, on the other hand, note that cockroaches are far more numerous than humans, and that numbers alone do not denote a higher life form."  
... New York Times*

# Cologne

*First report from Computer '97*

*By Joachim Sondermann-Bieker*

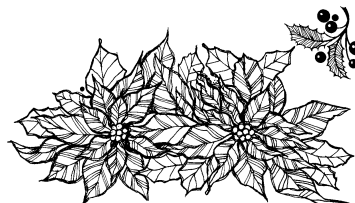
**H**i all! I was able to have a little chat with Petro Tyschtschenko during the Computer 97 Amiga fair in Cologne. Here's what he said in brief:

- New Amigas shall be aggressively priced to broaden the user base, both in the home sector and the professional sector. T. gave a figure of 400 Mark (around \$230) for an entry level Amiga to 1500 Mark (approx. \$870) for the top machine. (Rem: I'm not sure how complete such a machine can be. T. remained vague about whether you would have to add some components to get a really decent Amiga, e.g. HD, Gfx board or so)
- New Amigas shall be developed by Amiga Inc., USA, but not necessarily manufactured by Amiga itself. Instead, Amiga International is supposed to licence new developed items to whoever. Under a "powered by Amiga" label there shall be a variety of manufacturers that actually build Amigas. Amiga Intl. will see that certain standards and compatibility are maintained.
- There is no decision yet which CPU shall be used in the new Amiga line. Tyschtschenko made a pretty surprising statement: He would like most a Motorola 68060 or 68080 at 200 MHz in a new Amiga. He pointed out the advantage of being able to use a simple OS upgrade from 3.x instead of a complete rewrite. He didn't elaborate whether Motorola would be willing to build such a beast. Another option, processor-wise, would be some sort of cooperation with Phase5 (and the PPC board).

*Besides, Tyschtschenko said pretty good things about the work with Gateway executives. Amiga sales were going up. All in all he displayed lots of optimism though he didn't disregard possible dangers. AI stated earlier that new Amigas were not to be expected before sometime late in 1998. Maybe OS 3.5 will be out in the middle of the year.*

*...Joachim Sondermann-Bieker*

*(jsondermann@netcologne.de)* 



# NewTek Speaks

*NewTek Affirms Its Commitment To The Amiga*

*By Dwight Parscale, President and CEO, NewTek Partners, LP*

**N**ovember 11, 1997

*Dear Loyal NewTek Customer*

*Well, I am pleased to see that the passion for NewTek and our products is still strong. However, I do believe that a number of misconceptions are brewing. I'd like to take the time to address these issues to all of you so that you have a clear picture of where NewTek stands.*

*At NewTek Expo last month a statement was made during the dealer meeting on Sunday afternoon that referred to NewTek's Amiga development being "on hold." NewTek is in the desktop video development business.*

*Today, and for the last 10 years the Amiga has been the most suitable computer for this development. Now that the Amiga is in the hands of Gateway 2000 we are evaluating our next move. Gateway provides us with the potential to pursue a number of different avenues of development, some obvious, others less so. I am in conversation on virtually a daily basis with the folks at Gateway working on an agreement. One of the first steps taken by Gateway is the licensing of QuikPak. We have encouraged this association and are please to see that a dependable supply of equipment, parts and warranty service will be available to all Amiga users.*

*As for our commitment to you, our customers, NewTek's mission has always been to provide our customers with the most powerful tools possible at a price that is affordable. This approach has resulted in a significantly large number of people being able to enter careers and make a living doing something they enjoy where it may not have been possible otherwise. Since our move to San Antonio we have committed substantial additional resources to improving our customer service. The Technical Support staff has doubled in size and over half of that team has a focus on nothing but Toaster and Flyer issues. Additionally, we have numerous Amiga programmers on staff working on future developments.*

*One of the other business components that NewTek has committed a great deal of resources to is third party development. For many customers one of the most appealing aspects of the NewTek line of products is the wealth of support from third party developers that provides additional capabilities and depth of functionality to our products. We welcome and encourage this support and expect to see much more development from this arena on the Toaster and Flyer, in addition to LightWave.*

*We remain committed to Amiga technology and believe the future holds the potential for more great things. We have never stopped believing in or supporting the Amiga, our users, or the creative talent that finds ways to use or improve our technology.*

*As always, we appreciate the high value that you place on NewTek and our products. It is absolutely our mission, in fact our passion, to make sure that you have the most powerful, exciting tools possible and still at a price that makes our competitors crazy. AGM*



# Editorialities

## Microsoft is the Most Trusted Company?

By Eric W. Schwartz, from the Amiga Gazette

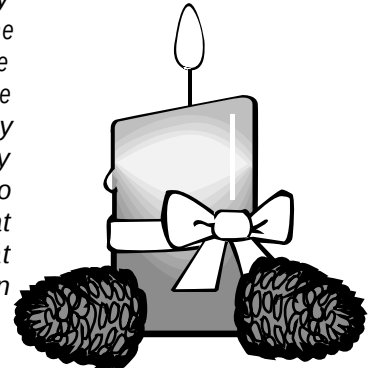
One thing I've found interesting in the past month was a poll conducted by a television news program which asked people what companies they trusted. Extremely surprising (to me, anyway) was that Microsoft took the top spot in trust. All good Amiga owners (and most Mac owners) know that Bill Gates is effectively the Anti-Christ and Microsoft is his engine of world domination. Many knowledgeable PC owners I've talked to have difficulty with some or all of Microsoft's products, policies, or business tactics, and almost certainly would not be willing to lend Bill Gates twenty bucks to tide him over until payday. After all, not all of those anti-Bill comedy texts were written by Mac, Amiga, and Unix users.

It would seem that the majority of the folks in the poll are the ignorant consumer sap-types who buy Packard Bells at Best Buy and use the internet exclusively through AOL free offer disks. There's a sad truth in this: These are the people who think they've got the best stuff when they have no idea what the other options are. These are the people who believe what the biggest marketing budget tells them. Saddest of all, these are the people who will never buy an Amiga because they have no idea what it can do, and because it doesn't play Duke Nukem 3D (actually, it does, if you want to be technical about it). We are way beyond the day of the Commodore 64, when a good computer product could effectively sell itself, and the computer was a tool to do work, expand the mind, and have fun all at once — and that is the saddest thing of all.

No one has fun with their computers any more. As incorrect as that sounds, it's a true statement as far as I'm concerned. Think back to the dawn of the Amiga, when the C64s, Apple IIs, and Atari 800s ruled the world. Many computer owners did a variety of things with their machines, often dabbling in programming, graphics and sound, games, and work-related stuff all at once, and often inter-related. The Amiga was a marvel then, as it was so good at so many different things, and it attracted a lot of "hackers" — the types who love to tinker with computers almost purely for sheer enjoyment of technology (as opposed to those who create viruses and illegally tap into others' computers). Nowadays, the hackers are all either gone or working in a cubicle somewhere, and the enjoyment of computers for their own sake is gone. People buy and use computers to do two things now: to make money and waste time. Making money is classified as using your own computer to do work for someone else, or find information to benefit you one way or another. Wasting time can be best typified by cruising the Net and playing games. While this is fun for many, there's none of the creativity that was involved in the days of the hackers.

That's the reason the Amiga may never achieved the same success as the early days: so few people are concerned enough with their computer to think beyond what the advertisers tell them. Ads tell them, "You need Pentium! (bing Bing bing BING)" and they go "Yes, master." The users don't even know they have a choice, don't enjoy their computers, and just use them without realizing the fun they have with games could be had with creativity as well. Notice how I've come pretty much full circle with this commentary?

I'm like most folks, and I don't have the same kind of creative enjoyment with my Amiga that used to, as the real-life monster has forced me to keep working — but I like to try to keep a little of my own projects and creativity going, even in the work I do for others. Try not to lost that sensibility folks. It's what brought you to the Amiga in the first place. AGM



## Networking

### Amiga User Group Network Formed By Wayne Hunt

Amiga Inc, in association with Amiga.org wish to announce the formation of the Official Amiga User Group Network. Designed with both Amiga User Groups and Amiga, Inc. in mind, the User Group Network (UGN) will allow User Groups and Amiga, Inc. to interact in close cooperation.

The User Group Network is an internet-based system intended to get essential news out to the users as quickly and efficiently as possible by presenting a unified interface between Amiga, Inc. and the user groups. News from Amiga, Inc. is fed directly to the User Group Network, then broadcast to all of the network members via direct e-mail.

[Editor's Note: The AGM has been registered with the User Group Network and, by the time you receive this, we will be listed in the Official User Group Registry. The Registry's address is <http://www.amiga.org/usergroups>. Also, be sure to visit <http://www.amiga.org>.] AGM

# Power PC

## Sinking Ships

By Carl Sassenrath, Author of Amiga's OS Kernal

So, I see the PPC continues to screw things up. Intel and Microsoft must laugh all the way to the bank as the PPC continues to generally erode the Motorola based CPU marketplace. Have any companies come out ahead on this venture? Certainly not poor old Apple Computer, whose sinking ship I think can be partially attributed to the PPC which drained the critical development away from more important tasks (like multitasking, TCP/IP support, Internet). Although I understand the intended benefits of PPC architecture and its contribution to computer engineering, I do not understand why Motorola had to drop the 68K line of CPUs. I would have much preferred that Motorola put their energy into creating a 200-300 MHz 69040 CPU for a reasonable cost.

Nothing beats CPU speed! That was a lesson I learned back in the late 1980s while working for Apple on its "supercomputer on a chip" quad parallel processor project from some of the world's leading CPU designers. Raw speed can make up for many other CPU inefficiencies. Think about it: if raising the clock speed can benefit the obscenely ugly architecture of the 80x86, just think what it would have meant for the 68K CPUs. Would you want to upgrade your Amiga to, say, 250 MHz for \$200? I would.

Motorola gave up on the 68K much too early! It was not such a bad design! And, certainly the shift was not worth the marketplace that has been lost. What, now with 20/20 hindsight, has the PPC really bought the Macintosh? Loss of market share. Do you know how many people

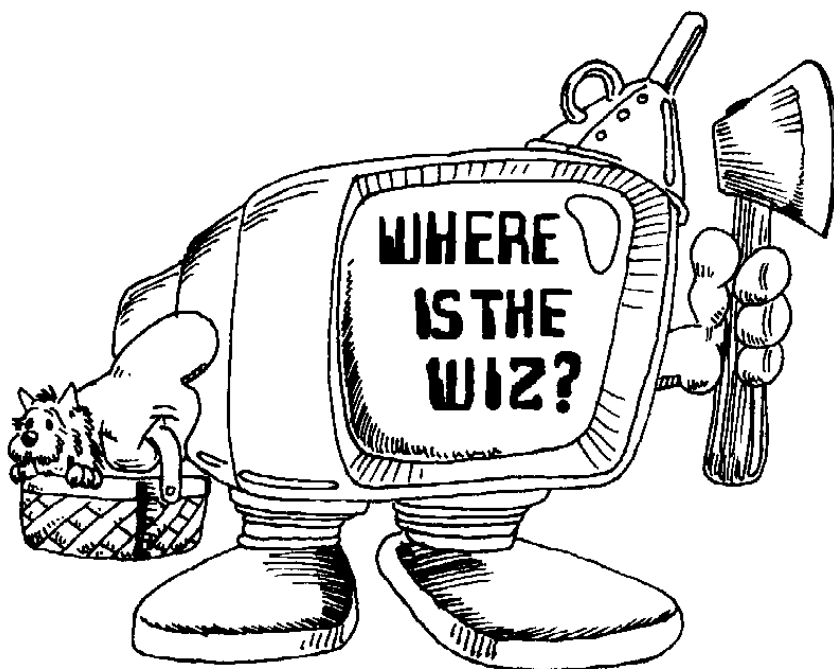
stopped buying Macs when the PPC version was introduced (with all of their associated problems, broken software, slow performance, etc.) I own five Macs, all 68K based. The downside of moving to a PPC Mac was not worth the gain. Do you think end users care about CPUs? They don't! Proof: Intel.

So... how much time have we all wasted here dealing with the PPC? Perhaps it would have been better worth our while to convince Motorola to simply build a 400 MHz 68030 or 68040! Perhaps we still should? That's what I told Ted Waitt last May when we talked. It seemed that if anyone had the clout to make Motorola wake up, it would be Gateway. Ted seemed to like the idea. Where has it gone from there? I don't know.

Perhaps some of you think that I am old fashioned and need to get with the CPU bandwagon. Hey, I don't care if my car's engine is piston, rotary, or electric... what I care about is end performance, its acceleration, torque, and top RPM. And, if I'm going to be the one who opens the hood, I also care about its simplicity and elegance of design. (My usual plug for better OS design.)

Yet one more opinion for you.

[Source: The National Capital Amiga Users Group newsletter, "Active Window" November, 1997. NCAUG's address is P.O. Box 12360, Arlington, VA 22209. On the web it's <http://www.ncaug.org>] AGM



## Thought For The Month

«•»

It's a damn poor mind that  
can only think of one way to  
spell a word.

...Andrew Jackson

# Microsoft to Buy U.S.

*Purchase Called "Logical Extension of ... Planned Growth"  
Purchase Price Not Disclosed*

**R**EDMOND, Wash. — Oct. 21, 1997 — In direct response to accusations made by the Department of Justice, the Microsoft Corp. announced today that it will be acquiring the federal government of the United States of America for an undisclosed sum.

"It's actually a logical extension of our planned growth," said Microsoft chairman Bill Gates. "It really is going to be a positive arrangement for everyone."

Microsoft representatives held a briefing in the oval office of the White House with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and assured members of the press that changes will be "minimal." The United States will be managed as a wholly owned division of Microsoft. An initial public offering is planned for July of next year, and the federal government is expected to be profitable by "Q4 1999 at latest," according to Microsoft president Steve Ballmer.

In a related announcement, Bill Clinton stated that he had "willingly and enthusiastically" accepted a position as a vice president with Microsoft, and will continue to manage the United States government, reporting directly to Bill Gates. When asked how it felt to give up the mantle of executive authority to Gates, Clinton smiled and referred to it as "a relief." He went on to say that Gates has a "proven track record," and that U.S. citizens should offer Gates their "full support and confidence." Clinton will reportedly be earning several times the \$200,000 annually he has earned as U.S. president, in his new role at Microsoft.

Gates dismissed a suggestion that the U.S. Capitol be moved to Redmond as "silly," though did say that he would make executive decisions for the U.S. government from his existing office at Microsoft headquarters. Gates went on to say that the House and Senate would "of course" be abolished. "Microsoft isn't a democracy," he observed, "and look how well we're doing."

When asked if the rumored attendant acquisition of Canada was proceeding, Gates said, "We don't deny that discussions are taking place." Microsoft representatives closed the conference by stating that United States citizens will be able to expect lower taxes, increases in government services and discounts on all Microsoft products.

## About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers, and democratic government. The company offers a wide range of products and services for public, business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing and free society.

## About the United States

Founded in 1789, the United States of America is the most successful nation in the history of the world, and has been a beacon of democracy and opportunity for over 200 years. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the United States is a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation. AGM

## Top 10 Signs the New Mir Computer is Running Windows 95

10. The computer keeps asking you to "Insert Setup Disk #3 to continue"
9. There is no space left on the hard drive to store mission data.
8. The computer refuses to interact with the Mir's "Mr. Java" coffee maker.
7. Millions of dollars are traced to phone calls to a Redmond, WA 900#.
6. Mir astronauts are caught stealing RAM from other satellites' computers to keep their system running.
5. The Space Shuttle can no longer dock with Mir since "the proper driver cannot be found"
4. The system locks up whenever the astronauts try to run life support, the solar panels and thrusters at the same time.
3. The astronauts spend three days looking for cyrillic version of the CTRL-ALT-DEL keys.
2. Alien ships secretly observing Mir flee in terror.

And the number one sign the new Mir computer is running Windows 95...

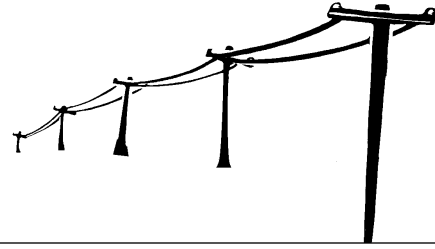
1. You start receiving welcoming e-mail from the Borg.

...by Mike Popovic (carpediem@locnet.com)



# BBS News

*The Best of The BBS Uploads  
Selected by Bill Raecke*



**I**t's a good month for gamers. You'll find a Yahtzee game (YTZP.LZX) for four players (computer or human).

There's also a nicely done "Asteroids" game (WBSTEROIDS13.LZX) that plays in a window right on the Workbench, and the latest incarnation of Poing (POING5.LZX), the sideways "Breakout" game. There's also a new version of Diamond Caves II (DIAMONDCAVESII12.LZX), the "Emerald Mine" clone. Any of these games is well worth spending some time with.

We've added fifteen new and outstanding pictures this month. All are digitized pics of animals. There are two new wolf pictures (can't have too many of those), a parrot, a cheetah and eleven pictures of seagulls. Take a look at the examples... they're even better in color.

If you've used Windows95, you may have found that you liked the taskbar along the bottom of the screen that is used for switching between tasks and for starting new tasks. Well, now you can have the same thing on your Amiga. ScreenTab (SCREENTAB\_3.2.LZX) offers much of the same functionality. Your system's open screens are dis-

played as buttons across the bar allowing you to switch to a specific screen directly from any other screen. And in the left corner is your "Start" button that can be configured to start any program in your system.

Scout (SCOUT.LZX) is (in my humble opinion) the best of the system monitor programs. It's been upgraded again this month. It shows things like the running tasks and how much CPU power each of those tasks is consuming, what libraries have been loaded and what versions they are, what fonts are in use, etc. It does everything via a very nice point and click GUI interface. If you don't have it, get it. If you have it, get the upgrade.

Last, but not least, is an upgrade to Lupe (LUPE1.9.LZX). Lupe is a magnifying glass program... it lets you get a really good look at things when you need to. Unlike many lesser versions of the same thing, Lupe has a sizeable window, offers variable magnification levels and can open on any screen. It works on all screen types, too — even CyberGraphX screens. It's not something you need every day, but when you need it, it's good to have. AGM





# Meeting Notes



## Amiga By-The-Loop Meeting Johnny C. Kitchens

October wasn't much of an Amiga news month, which is about normal. Our club was busy with the Extravaganza. If you missed it, you really missed it! I really hope we can get back to the MetCom of the past in the future. Considering how things are going, I believe we did really well.

Our meeting began with talk about the Extravaganza

and naming candidates for the officers of the club. From there we moved to a talk session. We started off with a question on which to get: a scan doubler or a graphics card. The graphics card definitely wins just about any comparison of those two. Next we heard about the new Sony Mavica camera that uses regular 3.5 inch floppies to record the images. This should make it easy to use on the Amiga, as the Amiga easily reads PC formatted disks... the same format used by the camera. A discussion on removable format drives and what to get was next. Lots of choices here. The real news here is the new SyQuest SparQ drive. 1 GB capacity that comes with one disk for \$199 and you can buy a pack of three disk for \$99! That's 4 Gigabytes of storage for \$398! The

Zip drive is in trouble with that kind of competition.

For our main presentation we finished a previous presentation. We finally got the battery in Ned Kelly's 4000 replaced — and it worked!

November continues our lack of Amiga news. Somehow I hope this lack of news is like a big spring being compressed, and someday it is going to release and we are going to be knocked over by the news. I thought this was about to happen even. Various people kept pointing to a big show in Germany where big news about the Amiga was to be announced. All that was said was the same thing that had been said before. Basically that great things were coming. The strangest news came from the head of Amiga International who said he thought the future Amiga would be powered by a 200MHz 68080. I hope someone misunderstood him, or Motorola hasn't been truthful with us. Another round of waiting, and gossip lay ahead for sure.

We started off the meeting with talk on the success of the flea market. As I mentioned, I thought it went rather well. We then cast our vote for the slate of officers



presented last month. Did I say vote? Voting for officers is more a confirmation of a group of volunteers. Continuing this process, we presented the group of volunteers for the chapter officers, for which confirmation will take place next month. The first discussion of the meeting was proxy problems on Voyager. Having a computer on hand with Voyager made this easy to explain. This is something we've needed on many meetings, a computer to help explain and show how to do these various things people ask about. Sure helped tonight! We next discussed 3.1 and scanner problems. 3.1 brings up interesting topics. The people in control of the Amiga have been telling of the coming of 3.5 and 4.0 versions of our operating system. The first mention of 3.5 gave November as a release date. That's come and gone! Spring '98 has been rumored — now late '98 is the word. The first word on 3.5 said no new ROMs — now new ROMs will be required. I don't think this will get any better 'till Gateway has everything straightened out and is ready to speak. 'Till then I wish they would get these guys together so they can get their story straight.

Tonight, Mark Stodola brought his 3000 out to show us a tape backup and the latest in game software. The tape backup features a DAT drive. DAT drives use a small tape capable of holding up to 4GB of data. They are reasonably fast for the way they work, and require little supervision over their process. The other demonstration covered the demo for a new game about to be released. Genetic Species is a long awaited Doom clone for the Amiga. There have been a few of these clones already, but they have nothing like Genetic Species. Genetic Species will take advantage of everything introduced over the years to improve the Amiga. Got a graphics card? It can use it! Got an accelerator? It can use it! Got a sound card? It can use it! The demo on my system using my sound card has 16 channels of sound! Everything about this demo has to be seen to be believed. If you want to see it, you can download it from the BBS, or get the librarian to get you a copy. The only bad thing I can say is that it is hard to play. The keyboard controls are less than precise. Get it anyway, try it, and get ready to buy it. Vulcan says it will be ready early next year. I'm ready.

## Amiga North Dallas Meeting Michael Turner

Due to Traffic related problems, "yours truly" arrived a little bit late and missed the beginning of the meeting but I think I managed to catch the most interesting bits. Among them were several interesting questions this month mostly related to using the Amiga on the Internet for e-mail. One member wondered if there was a Juno or Juno-like program for the Amiga.

Thomas Dye, now working at CompUSA, mentioned that the new SparQ drives are now on the shelves. These

are removable harddrives that hold about one gigabyte of memory on a disk. Yes, that's right, one gig! He says that they run about \$200 right now and there are models for parallel ports and also models that will run on a SCSI setup.

Also, Richard Levine mentioned he had used a shop to repair some video equipment which he uses with his Video Toaster and that they did a good job and charged him a flat rate for the repair. Another member mentioned that he had used the same shop and also liked their work. Although they couldn't remember the name of the shop, they mentioned it was located on the intersection of Coit and Campbell.

As it is close to the end of the year it is time to vote on officers for next year. As such, we chose new officers for the coming year. Here is the new slate so far:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| President:      | Thomas Dye     |
| Vice-President: | Richard Levine |
| Treasurer:      | Gus Reiter     |
| Secretary:      | Michael Turner |
| Librarian:      | John Cummings  |

Of course, since these offices are not voted on 'till next month, if anyone would like to run or has suggestions concerning such please mention them next meeting.

Speaking of next month, Thomas Dye has graciously agreed to hold the annual Christmas meeting at his home. We will hold our December meeting on December 16, the third Tuesday of the month as usual.

The address is 2941 Moss Creek Court in McKinney. Assuming one is going North on I-75, take exit 39 which is El Dorado Pkwy. Go left (west) on El Dorado. Take a right (north) on the first street after Country Club 'till you hit Abbey. Take a left (west) on Abbey and follow it and it becomes Moss Creek. Thomas' home is just after the curve. The location is shown on Mapsco page 360X. Bring your computer, your favorite game and some munchies! Meeting time is the regular 7:30 p.m. See Ya'll There!



# The MCCC

*Statement of Purpose: The Metroplex Commodore Computer Club is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the collection and dissemination of computer knowledge, to the encouragement of computer education, and to the use of Amiga (formally Commodore) computers in the home, at school, and in business.*

*Legal Stuff: The MCCC is not connected with Gateway 2000 or Amiga International. The Amiga product name is a registered trademark of Gateway 2000.*

*Meetings and Membership: Our meetings are open to all. Family membership dues are \$24 per year or \$15 for six months and entitle the member to a mailed copy of the newsletter and free access to the club's extensive public domain and shareware software library. An additional \$12 annual fee provides access to the MCCC multi-user Bulletin Board System.*

## AGM Journal

*Copyright Information: Material printed in the AGM Journal is not copyrighted unless so noted. Articles may be reprinted or otherwise distributed by other groups or individuals who may find them helpful as long as proper credit is given to the author and to the AGM.*

*Advertising: The AGM Journal accepts two kinds of advertising. Member ads are those which are submitted by a member and which are not of a commercial nature. There is no charge for member ads. Commercial ads are those which advertise multiple like items for sale. Rates for camera-ready commercial ads are as follows for a single month or (prepaid consecutive three months): Full Page — \$36 (\$96); Half Page — \$18 (\$48); Quarter Page — \$12 (\$32); Business Card — \$6 (\$16).*

*Articles: Members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles may be submitted in virtually any Amiga-generated format. They may be uploaded to the MCCC BBS or sent via e-mail to [wraecke@arlington.net](mailto:wraecke@arlington.net), or submitted on disk.*

*Deadline: The deadline for submissions to the AGM Journal is 7am of the fourth Saturday of each month. Payment must accompany all ad copy. Make checks payable to MCCC and mail c/o Bill Raecke, 2614 Charolais Way, Arlington, Texas 76017.*

*Extra Copies: Extra Copies of the MCCC News are available at \$1 per copy. Orders should be forwarded with the required fee by the newsletter deadline.*

# MCCC Officers

|                        |                     |              |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| President.....         | Ned Kelly.....      | 817-277-5825 |
| Vice President.....    | Mark Stodola.....   | 972-299-6824 |
| Treasurer.....         | John Malmstrom..... | 817-282-6158 |
| Secretary.....         | Okley Moss.....     | 817-282-7751 |
| Librarian.....         | Ned Kelly.....      | 817-277-5825 |
| Education Chair.....   | David Owens.....    | 817-577-2304 |
| BBS Coordinator.....   | Okley Moss.....     | 817-282-7751 |
| Newsletter Editor..... | Bill Raecke.....    | 817-465-2014 |

## Chapter Officers

### Amiga By-The-Loop Chapter

|                     |                      |              |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| President.....      | David Owens.....     | 817-577-2304 |
| Vice President..... | Wayne Brodnax.....   | 817-244-0828 |
| Treasurer.....      | John Malmstrom.....  | 817-282-6158 |
| Secretary.....      | Johnny Kitchens..... | 817-649-8632 |
| Librarian.....      | Ned Kelly.....       | 817-277-5825 |

### Amiga North Dallas Chapter

|                     |                     |              |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| President.....      | Gus Reiter.....     | 972-713-8660 |
| Vice President..... | Steve Nichols.....  | 972-530-6345 |
| Treasurer.....      | Eddie Corr.....     | 972-423-1947 |
| Secretary.....      | Michael Turner..... | 972-216-9138 |
| Librarian.....      | John Cummings.....  | 972-618-5308 |

## BBS Numbers

|            |                  |              |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| Metro..... | 28,800 BAUD..... | 817-268-4191 |
| Local..... | 28,800 BAUD..... | 817-280-9900 |

## Web Site

<http://www.startext.net/np/agm>

# Calendar Of Events

Dec 2 MCCC Board of Directors Meeting  
7:30 pm — Mark Stodola's place  
400 James Street, Cedar Hill

Dec 9 Amiga By-The-Loop Chapter  
7:30 pm  
Bell Helicopter Training Facility  
Trinity at Norwood, Hurst

Dec 16 Amiga North Dallas Chapter  
7:30 pm — Thomas Dye's place  
2941 Moss Creek Court, McKinney

Dec 20 January  
Newsletter  
Deadline

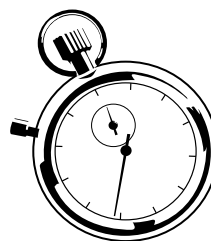


# Membership Watch

## *Memberships Expired in November*

Thomas Lotzer  
Randy Sheppard

Samuel Owens



## *Memberships Expiring in December*

Gene Lipnicky  
Steve Nichols

Foster McCowan

## *The AGM Journal*

MCCC

P.O. Box 813

Bedford, Texas 76095

*Please Forward  
Address Correction Requested*

<http://www.startext.net/np/agm/>

*Note Membership Expiration on Label*